

The logo for UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) is displayed in a white circle. The letters 'UNSDCF' are in a colorful, sans-serif font, with each letter having a different color: U (blue), N (orange), S (green), D (red), C (purple), and F (yellow).

UNSDCF

Lao PDR - United Nations
Sustainable Development
Cooperation Framework

SUMMARY

2022-2026



United
Nations





PURPOSE

Under the reformed United Nations development system adopted by United Nations General Assembly Res. 72/279 in 2018, the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) is the most important instrument for planning and implementation

of United Nations development activities at country level. It transforms the way that the UN will work with Lao PDR, building a functional platform for greater coordination, coherence, and effectiveness.



Photo: WFP, UNFPA



CONTEXT

Entering the Decade of Action to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and initiating the rollout of its next five-year National Socio-Economic Development Plan 2021-2025, Lao PDR is at an important stage of its national development planning. By 2026, Lao PDR hopes to achieve graduation from **Least Developed Country status**. During the

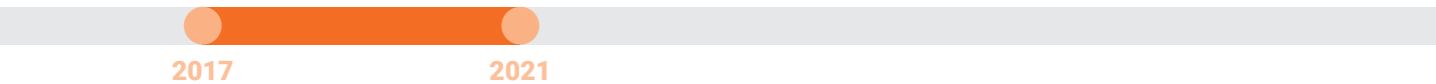
coming years, Lao PDR will contend with the challenges of the **COVID-19 pandemic, the triple planetary crisis of climate change, loss of biodiversity and environmental degradation, and financing constraints** hampering the investments needed in human capital, infrastructure development, and the planning for a successful transition.

Timeline

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



Lao PDR-UN Partnership Framework (UNPF)



National Socio-Economic Development Plan (NSEDP)



United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF)



BACKGROUND

Common Country Assessment

The formulation process for the 2022-2026 Lao PDR – UNSDCF was evidence-based, drawing upon the UN’s independent analysis of the development context.

UNPF Evaluation and NSEDP

UNSDCF is closely aligned with the 9th National Socio-Economic Development Plan 2021-2025 (NSEDP) and draws from the evaluation of the 2017-2021 Lao PDR-UN Partnership Framework (UNPF).

7

PRIORITIES
were identified by the Common Country Assessment



PRIORITY 1
Making development progress more inclusive, diversified, competitive and resilient



PRIORITY 2
Investing in human capital including education, protection and nutrition



PRIORITY 3
Macroeconomic stabilization and efforts to ensure efficient use of available development resources



PRIORITY 4
Valuing ecosystems, adopting circular economy principles and combating climate change



PRIORITY 5
Promoting a more active and inclusive human rights discourse



PRIORITY 6
Addressing gaps in governance institutions to support the implementation of existing laws and commitments



PRIORITY 7
Improved availability and use of data

APPROACH

Formulation

Under the overall leadership and coordination of the UN Resident Coordinator, 25 UN entities collaborated with the Government of Lao PDR throughout the process, which included broad-based consultations with other development partners, the private sector, and civil society.

Structure

UNSDCF entails four integrated strategic priorities, to which the UN will contribute through 21 UN Joint Outputs. The strategic priorities are aligned to the pillars of the 9th National Socio-Economic Development Plan and the SDGs.

1

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1
PEOPLE'S WELLBEING



2

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2
INCLUSIVE PROSPERITY



3

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3
GOVERNANCE AND RULE OF LAW



4












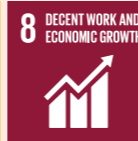





STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4
ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE
CHANGE AND RESILIENCE















Photo: UN Communication Group Lao PDR



UNSDCF Alignment

	1 PEOPLE'S WELLBEING 	2 INCLUSIVE PROSPERITY 
OUTCOMES	By 2026, people, especially the most vulnerable and marginalised, will have more equitable and inclusive access to and will benefit from better quality health, nutrition, food, shelter, protection, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and education and learning, including during emergencies.	By 2026, people, especially the most vulnerable and marginalised, will benefit from more inclusive, and resilient, transformative, and sustainable socio-economic opportunities to reduce poverty and inequalities.
SUPPORTING SDGS	      	       
SUPPORTING 9TH NSEDP	Pillar 2: Improved quality of human resources to meet development, research capacity, science and technology needs, and create value-added production and services Pillar 3: Enhanced well-being of the people	Pillar 1: Continuous quality, stable and sustainable economic growth achieved Pillar 3: Enhanced well-being of the people Pillar 5: Engagement in regional and international cooperation and integration is enhanced with robust infrastructure and effective utilisation of national potential and geographic advantages

	3 GOVERNANCE AND RULE OF LAW 	4 ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE, AND RESILIENCE 
OUTCOMES	By 2026, people, especially the most vulnerable and marginalised, are better served by public institutions at all levels in a transparent and inclusive manner, able to exercise their rights and obligations and the institutions shall be strengthened and more accountable while the rule of law and international human rights commitments made by Lao PDR are upheld.	By 2026, people, especially the most vulnerable and marginalised, and institutions will be better able to sustainably access, manage, preserve, and benefit from natural resources and promote green growth that is risk-informed, disaster and climate-resilient.
SUPPORTING SDGS	  	       
SUPPORTING 9TH NSEDP	Pillar 6: Public governance and administration is improved, and society is equal, fair, and protected by the rule of law	Pillar 4: Environmental protection enhanced and disaster risks reduced

HOW THE UNSDCF WORKS

Outcomes

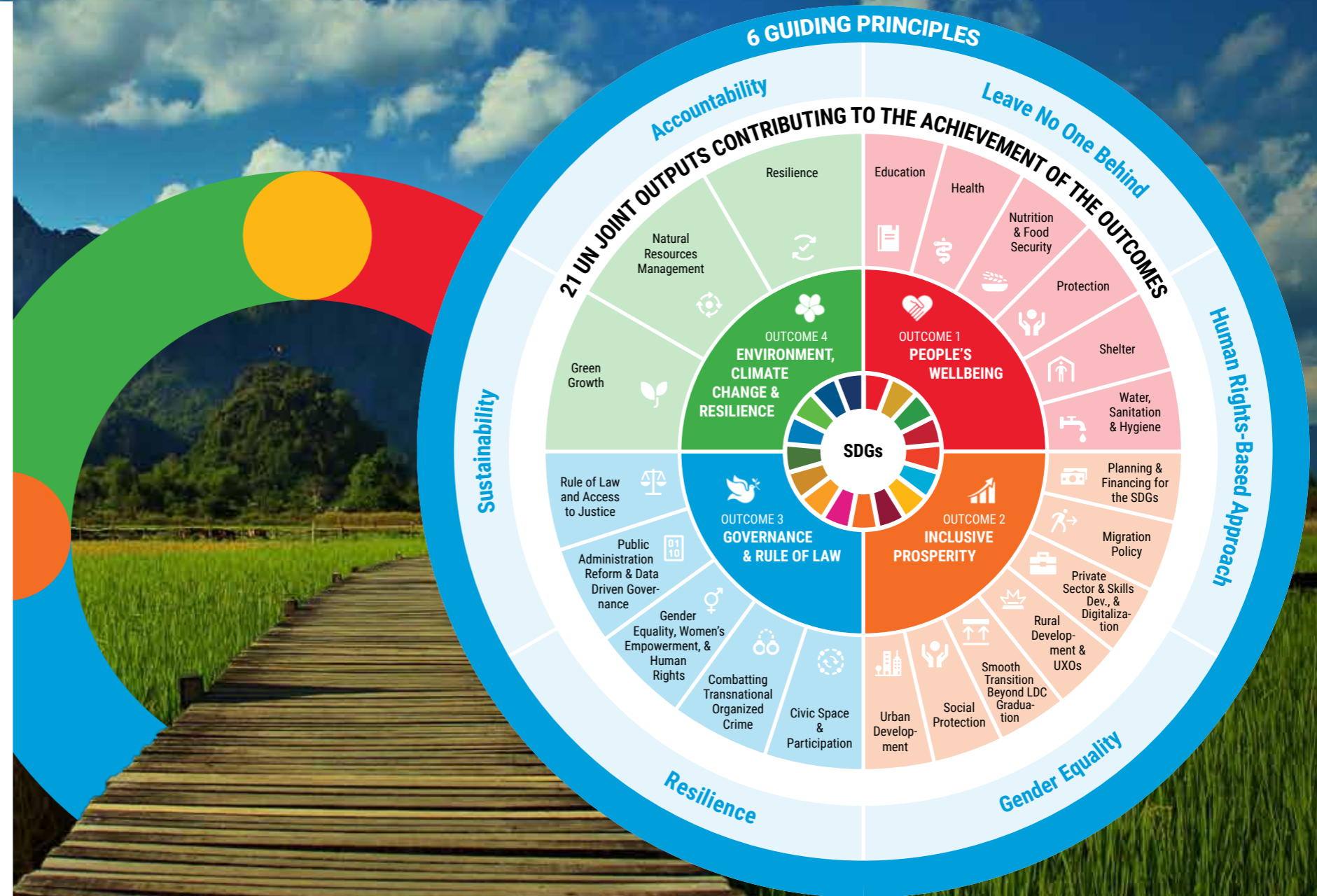
For each of the four Strategic Priorities, the UNSDCF defines a desired outcome that we want to achieve by the end of the programme cycle. Achieving these is dependent on efforts and contributions from all stakeholders.

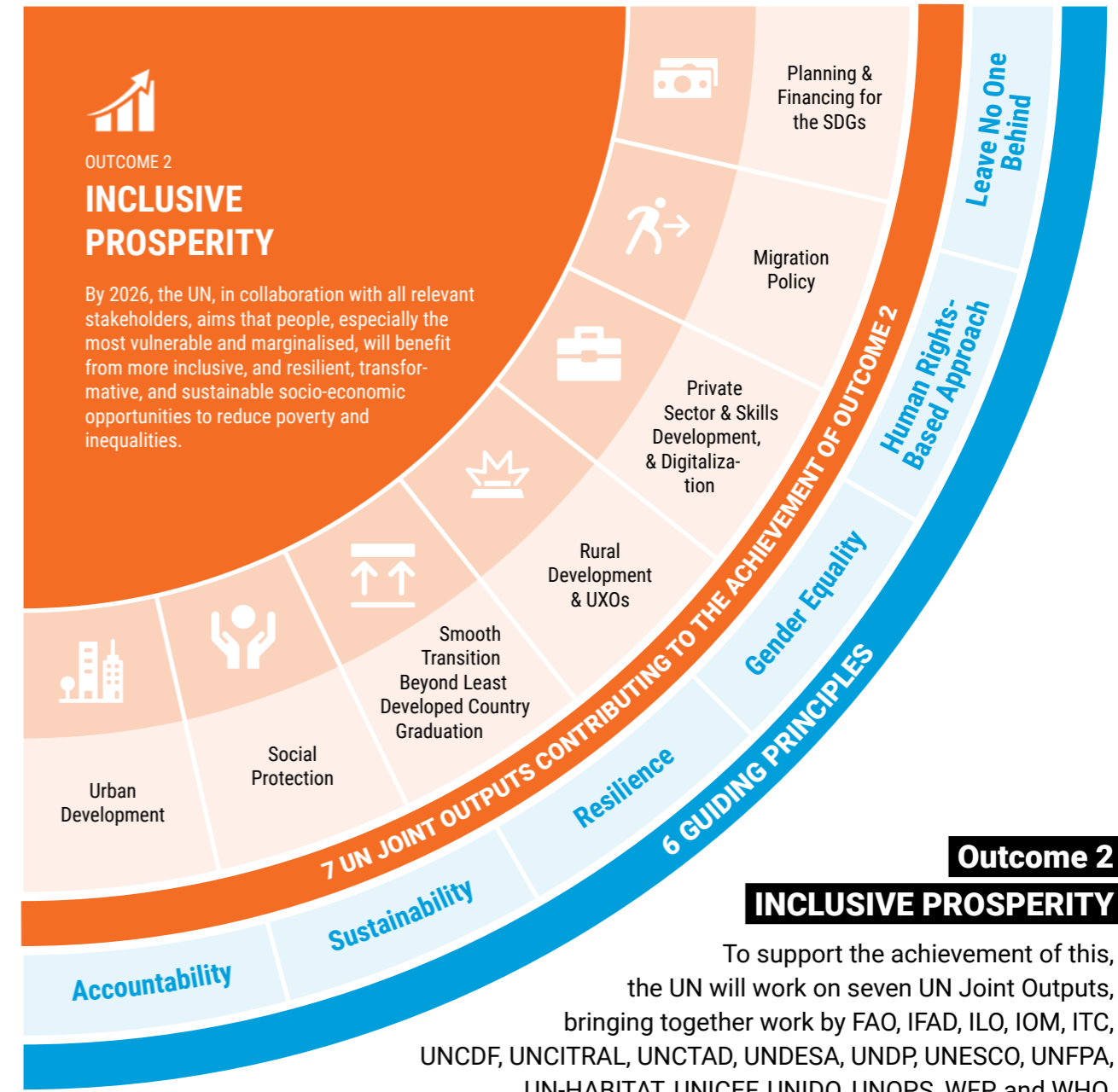
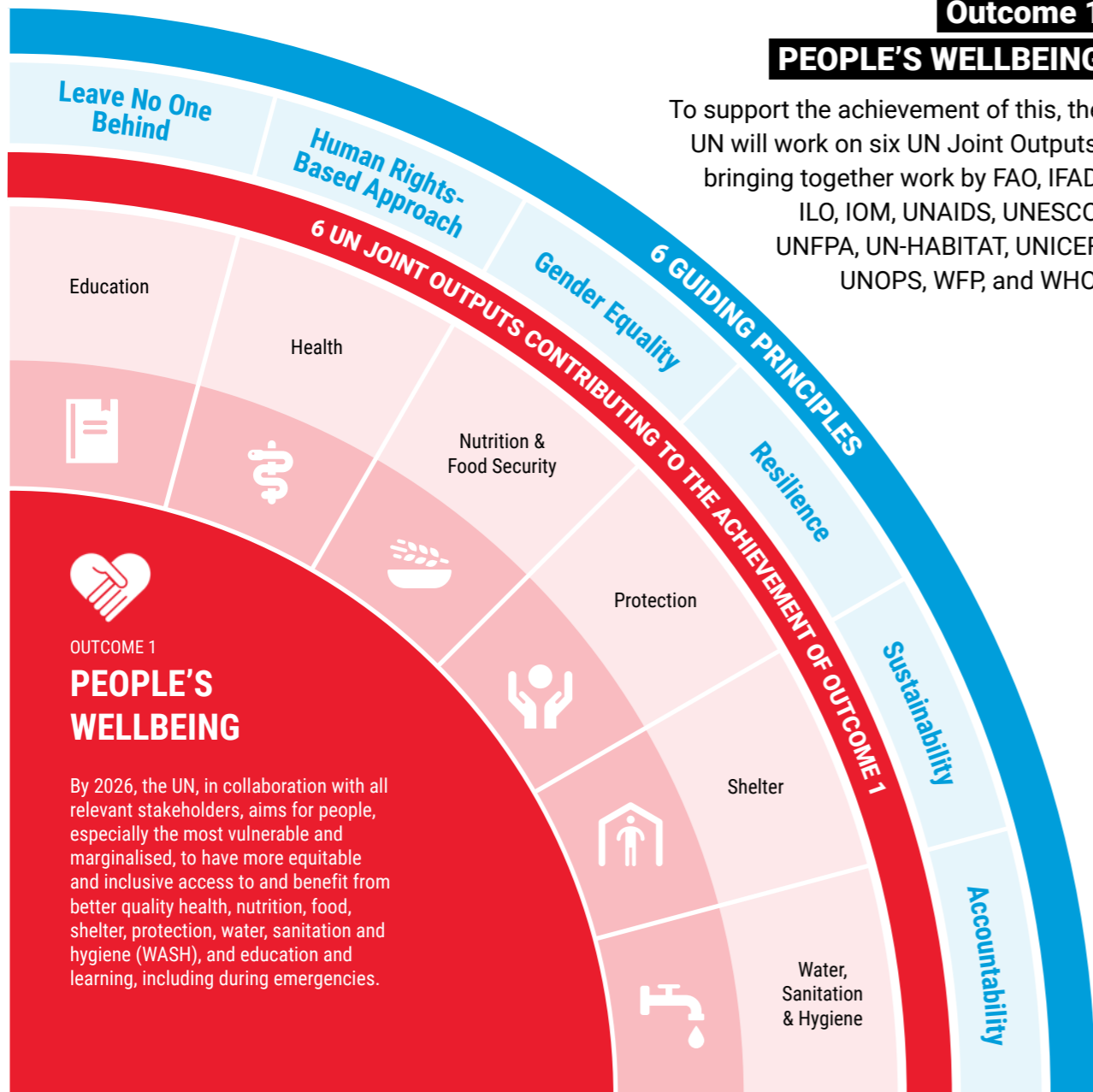
UN Joint Outputs

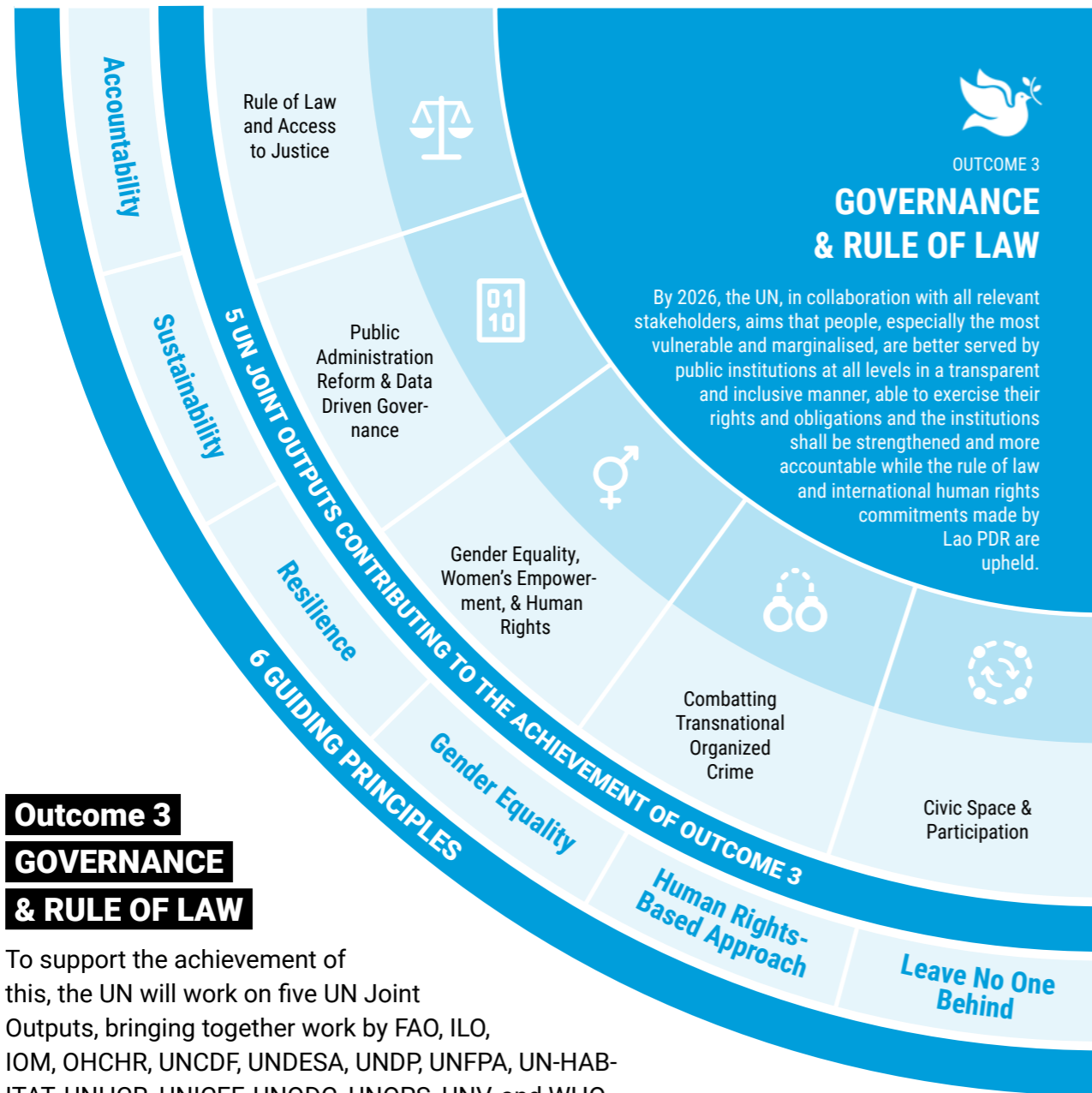
The 21 UN Joint Outputs of the UNSDCF are the specific contributions to the achievement of the four Outcomes that the UN in Lao PDR is accountable for. They represent the combined work of all UN agencies, funds, and programmes delivered both jointly and through single-entity initiatives.

Guiding Principles

Throughout all of the work undertaken under the UNSDCF, six Guiding Principles will be consistently applied, which together support the achievement of the necessary transformative shifts to achieve sustainable development.





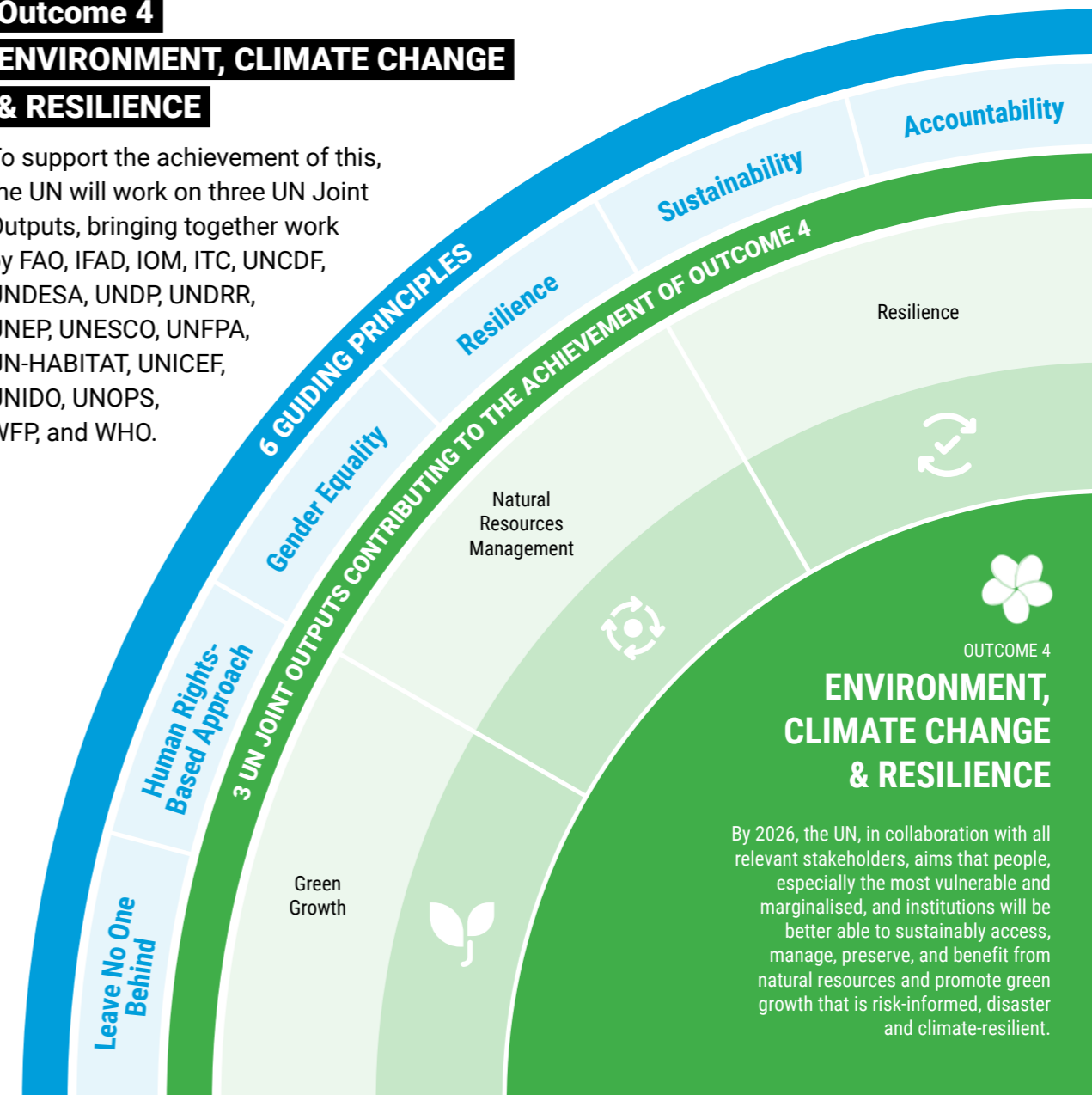


Outcome 3
GOVERNANCE & RULE OF LAW

To support the achievement of this, the UN will work on five UN Joint Outputs, bringing together work by FAO, ILO, IOM, OHCHR, UNCDF, UNDESA, UNDP, UNFPA, UN-HABITAT, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNODC, UNOPS, UNV, and WHO.

Outcome 4
ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE & RESILIENCE

To support the achievement of this, the UN will work on three UN Joint Outputs, bringing together work by FAO, IFAD, IOM, ITC, UNCDF, UNDESA, UNDP, UNDRR, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN-HABITAT, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNOPS, WFP, and WHO.



The new UNSDCF, which is in line with the reformed UN development system, will guide the work of all UN agencies in Lao PDR from 2022 until 2026. Developing the new generation of Cooperation Frameworks is part of the global UN reform, which strives to make the UN development system more coherent, efficient, and effective.



Main partners (Joint Steering Committee members)

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ministry of Education and Sports, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Ministry of Justice, Ministry

of Labour and Social Welfare, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Ministry of Planning and Investment, and Ministry of Public Works and Transports.



“

This is the first Lao-UN strategic planning framework to be developed since the global reform of the UN Development System, and as such there are new expectations placed on all of us to do things differently and work even more closely together.

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Ms. Sara Sekkenes, UN Resident Coordinator in Lao PDR

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Photo: UNRCO Lao PDR

